

ABSTRACT

The invention provides systems, methods and a node accessing and anchoring device, comprising an elongated shaft, a tissue cutting member, at least one anchoring element extending from a position at or near the distal end of the shaft; and a radiation detector. The radiation detector is effective to locate and identify sentinel lymph nodes following injection of radioactive material into a primary lesion site within a patient. The tissue cutting member, which may be activated with radio frequency energy, is effective to allow access of the elongated shaft to a sentinel lymph node. The anchoring elements are effective to anchor the device to or adjacent a sentinel lymph node accessed by the device. Anchoring elements may assume radially, longitudinally, or mixed radially and longitudinally curved or coiled configurations when deployed.